

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] A method for maintaining in a
2 digital computer system synchronization of ledger accounts
3 between a back-end procurement system and a front-end
4 requisition and catalog system on behalf of a plurality of
5 customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement
6 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company
7 group including a different plurality of said customer
8 companies, comprising the steps of:

9 associating a plurality of said customer companies
10 within a company group, said customer companies within
11 said company group storing in respective storage
12 devices ~~using~~ a same chart of accounts which varies
13 with respect to a chart of accounts associated with a
14 different company group of customer companies of said
15 enterprise;

16 maintaining a requisition and catalog system in
17 respective digital computer systems at each said
18 customer company;

19 maintaining said chart of accounts in a digital storage
20 device at said back-end procurement system at said
21 enterprise;

22 periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
23 account identification indicia and descriptive
24 information for a given customer company;

25 communicating said account identification indicia and
26 descriptive information to said requisition and catalog
27 system for each said customer company of a given
28 company group;

29 at said requisition and catalog system, storing said
30 indicia and information ~~in a data~~ in an electronic data
31 store of valid general ledger accounts associated with
32 said company group for said given customer company;

33 associating commodity codes with said account
34 identification indicia;

35 pushing commodity code/account identification
36 associations to all other companies in said company
37 group of said given customer company;

38 responsive to a user request for a requisition of a
39 commodity, providing to a user interface of a computer
40 display device a selection list of valid account codes
41 and descriptions authorized for purchase by users from
42 companies within said company group to facilitate
43 selection by a user of a correct account code for said
44 commodity.

2-3. [Canceled]

1 4. [Currently amended] A digital computer system for
2 operating a procurement accounting system for a plurality of
3 customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement
4 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company
5 group including a different plurality of said customer

6 companies, comprising:

7 a first digital computing device for implementing a
8 back-end procurement system;

9 a second digital computing device for implementing a
10 front-end requisition and catalog system;

11 a first chart of accounts store maintained in an
12 electronic storage device at said procurement system;

13 a second chart of accounts maintained in an electronic
14 storage device at said requisition and catalog system
15 of a given customer company within a given group of
16 customer companies which differs from a chart of
17 accounts for a different group of said customer
18 companies;

19 an extract utility at said procurement system for
20 periodically extracting from said first chart of
21 accounts[[,]] digital signals representing account
22 identification indicia and descriptive information for
23 a given company;

24 an update utility at said requisition and catalog
25 system for associating said account identification
26 indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;

27 a data store for storing digital signals representing
28 said indicia and information;

29 a company group table for storing company identifiers

30 associated with each of a plurality of company group
31 codes in an electronic storage device;

32 said update utility further for pushing to all
33 companies within a company group code associations of
34 commodity codes and account identification indicia
35 entered for a given company within said company group
36 codes; and

37 an output device responsive to a user request for a
38 purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list
39 of valid account codes and descriptive information for
40 said company group code.

5-7. [Canceled]

1 8. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable
2 by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a
5 back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and
6 catalog system on behalf of a plurality of customer
7 companies of an enterprise providing procurement services to
8 a plurality of company groups, each said company group
9 including a different plurality of said customer companies,
10 ~~said method steps~~ comprising:

11 a computer readable storage medium;

12 first program instructions for associating a plurality
13 of customer companies within a company group, said
14 customer companies within said group using a same chart

15 of accounts which differs from a chart of accounts for
16 a different group of said customer companies;

17 second program instructions for maintaining a chart of
18 accounts in said procurement system;

19 third program instructions for periodically extracting
20 from said chart of accounts, account identification
21 indicia and descriptive information for a given
22 company;

23 fourth program instructions for communicating said
24 indicia and information to said requisition and catalog
25 system of said given company;

26 fifth program instructions at said requisition and
27 catalog system, for storing said indicia and
28 information in a data store of valid general ledger
29 accounts associated with said company group code for
30 said given customer company;

31 sixth program instructions for associating commodity
32 codes with said account identification indicia;

33 seventh program instructions for pushing commodity
34 code/account identification associations to all other
35 companies in said company group of said given customer
36 company; [[and]]

37 eighth program instructions responsive to a user
38 request for a requisition of a commodity, for providing
39 a selection list of valid account codes and

40 descriptions authorized for purchase by users from
41 companies within said company group; and wherein

42 said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth,
43 seventh, and eighth program instructions are recorded
44 on said computer readable storage medium.

1 9. [Currently amended] A ~~computer program product or~~
2 computer program storage element for storing as digital
3 signals program instructions for controlling the operation
4 of a computer for maintaining synchronization of ledger
5 accounts between a back-end procurement system and a front-
6 end requisition and catalog system on behalf of a plurality
7 of customer companies of an enterprise providing procurement
8 services to a plurality of company groups, each said company
9 group including a different plurality of said customer
10 companies, said computer program element according to method
11 steps comprising:

12 first program instructions for associating a plurality
13 of companies within a company group, companies within
14 said group using a same chart of accounts which differs
15 from a chart of accounts for a different group of said
16 companies;

17 second program instructions for maintaining a chart of
18 accounts in said procurement system;

19 third program instructions for periodically extracting
20 from said chart of accounts, account identification
21 indicia and descriptive information for a given
22 customer company;

23 fourth program instructions for communicating said
24 indicia and information to said requisition and catalog
25 system;

26 at said requisition and catalog system, fifth program
27 instructions for storing said indicia and information
28 in a data store of valid general ledger accounts
29 associated with said company group code for said given
30 customer company;

31 sixth program instructions for associating commodity
32 codes with said account identification indicia;

33 seventh program instructions for pushing commodity
34 code/account identification associations to all other
35 companies in said company group of said given customer
36 company; and

37 eighth program instructions responsive to a user
38 request for a requisition of a commodity, for providing
39 a selection list of valid account codes and
40 descriptions authorized for purchase by users from
41 companies within said company group; and wherein said
42 first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh,
43 and eighth program instructions are recorded on said
44 computer program storage element.

10-11. [Canceled]